Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

We are bursting with news since you last heard from us in the early summer! We have hosted a priestly ordination, held our annual community retreat, were visited by the relic of St. Jude the Apostle, had three Solemn Professions, seven Investitures, three first professions, and the entrances of nine candidates at the Abbey and four at Ava. For the first time in our history, we are actually having to turn away vocations! Six applicants are now waiting until next year to enter, at which point, God willing, we will have more room.

That room will come with the completion of the construction of our daughter house in Ava. We are about halfway there, both with construction, and in paying the monthly bills that must needs accompany it! We have put our entire trust in God and His dear foster father, Saint Joseph, for this entire project, and will continue to do so for the next ten months, knowing that souls will be inspired with great generosity to bring this beautiful house of prayer to completion. As you read these words, we humbly ask you to consider what Our Lord might be asking you to contribute towards this worthy end. How pleased He is with those who support and assist His brides!

We hope you enjoy the many pictures of all our special events, along with a page of more “everyday” things. We have many talented artists and cartoonists in our monasteries, and so feature in this issue some drawings from one of our novices.

We close with a promise of prayer for each and every one of you, to whom we owe so much in the sustaining of our monastic life. May the Lord continue to provide for all your needs and show you His love, keeping you all always tucked close beneath the mantle of Our loving Mother.

In the Merciful Heart of her Son,

Mother Abbess Cecilia OSB

New novices Sr. Rosaria (Our Lady of the Rosary) Sr. Antonea (St. Anthony of Padua) Sr. Elassara (St. Lazarus) Sr. Pauline (St. Paul the Apostle) Sr. Alma (Our Lady of the Holy Family) Sr. Thomeisssa (St. Thomas the Apostle) and Sr. Concetta (Immaculate Conception.)
October 7th, 2023: Solemn Profession of Vows of Sister Martina, Sister Mary Petra & Sister Veronica

Upper left: the professuræ enter the sanctuary. Above: the prostration for the Litany of the Saints. Left: Sr. Thomeissa and Sr. Rosaria are congratulated by family and friends. Below left: Sr. Mary Petra greeted by her sister Anna.

Special thanks to celebrant Bishop Finn, to Fraternity priests and seminarians Fr. Charles Van Vliet (Sr. Rosaria’s pastor) Fr. Matthew McCarthy (Sr. Martina’s pastor) Fr. Joseph Dalimata (Sr. Alma’s brother) Steven Kalinowski (Sr. Mary Petra’s brother) and also to Master of Ceremonies, Fr. Charles Peirano (Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.)
Investitures of Sr. Antonea, Sr. Concetta, Sr. Alma, Sr. Rosaria, Sr. Pauline, Sr. Elassara & Sr. Thomeissa

New Solemnly professed Sr. Veronica, Sr. Martina and Sr. Mary Petra with Mother Abbess. Upper right: Sr. Elassara prepares to receive the habit while Sr. Mary Petra’s sister, Sr. Ioanna Marie, FLM prays in the background. Right: Sr. Concetta and Sr. Antonea

Special thanks also to photographer, Royce Hood, Esq. currently preparing Inncorruptible, a documentary on the life of Sister Wilhelmina.
First Professions

of Sr. Consuela, Sr. Marie Therese & Sr. Lillien

October 13th, 2023

We have been blessed with bumper crops of strawberries, lettuce and spinach.

The Sisters share a lighter moment with celebrant Bishop Conley after the ceremony.

Special thanks to photographer Kimberly Ball.

Professions are among the rare occasions when Mother Abbess uses her crosier.
The Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer gathered from across three continents for the ordination and first Mass of a long time friend of the community, Fr. Seelos.

Both communities gathered for a common recreation.
More and more faithful gather weekly for Mass near the Ava monastery.

Sr. Maria Battista cheerfully sees to the flower bed in Ava.

Sr. Natalie (now Sr. Alma) weeds the lilies.

Sr. Philippa makes a good roost.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth with our latest barnyard addition, “Mac.”

Ava Sisters off to work
Sr. Maria Battista visits with her family. The Sisters are quickly running out of space, and so are the weekly Mass attendants. Please help St. Joseph build a monastery!

**Ava Construction Update**

Bishop Rice blessed the bells at Ava on September 16th. They were christened Maria, Cecilia, Jacobus and Joachim.

We are making progress, but have a ways to go! One really easy way you can help is to stream our music as background music, travel music, as you’re falling asleep and even throughout the night! Our music is on all of the major streaming platforms: Spotify, Pandora, and more!
Sisters gather around our incorruptible following the Solemn Professions and Investitures ceremony.

In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear.

-Saint Therese of Lisieux